

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned thank the Examiner for his Office Action dated 19 July 2004.

The Examiner has objected to the form of the pending claims, as misnumbered in view of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.126.

In particular said claims are misnumbered in that applicants, in submitting a new set of claims in the Preliminary Amendment filed 30 April 2004 failed to assign numbers to said new set of claims that followed consecutively upon the last claim number (34) of the now cancelled claims 1-34 earlier presented.

In addition the Examiner noted an irregularity in the numbering of dependent claims (though he did not identify the specific claims at issue). On review it is noted that, as numbered in applicants' Preliminary Amendment, dependent claim 19 depends from dependent claim 16, although intervening dependent claims 17 and 18 depend from dependent claim 14; as a result, claim 19 improperly depends from a dependent claim, No. 16, from which intervening dependent claims 17 and 18 do not also depend.

In order to cure this irregularity, applicants have now reordered said three dependent claims, and placed former "Preliminary Amendment" claim 19 forward (as now claim 51) ahead of former "Preliminary Amendment" claims 17 and 18, which have now been renumbered claims 52 and 53.

A set of the now pending claims, corrected as set forth in this Amendment, is submitted with this Amendment.

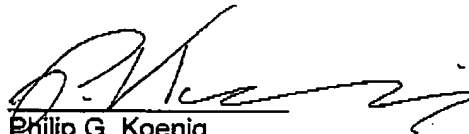
Conclusion

The Examiner has stated that the present application is in condition for allowance, except for the claims numbering informalities cited by the Examiner in his Office Action. Applicants have in the present amendment addressed said informalities, and therefore respectfully request the prompt allowance of the application.

In the event that any formal defect not detected by the undersigned should continue to delay the allowance of this application, it is requested that the undersigned be notified, preferably by telephone at 781.721.6800.

Dated: July 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted



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